

THE
DUCHESS OF YORK:

AN
ENGLISH STORY.

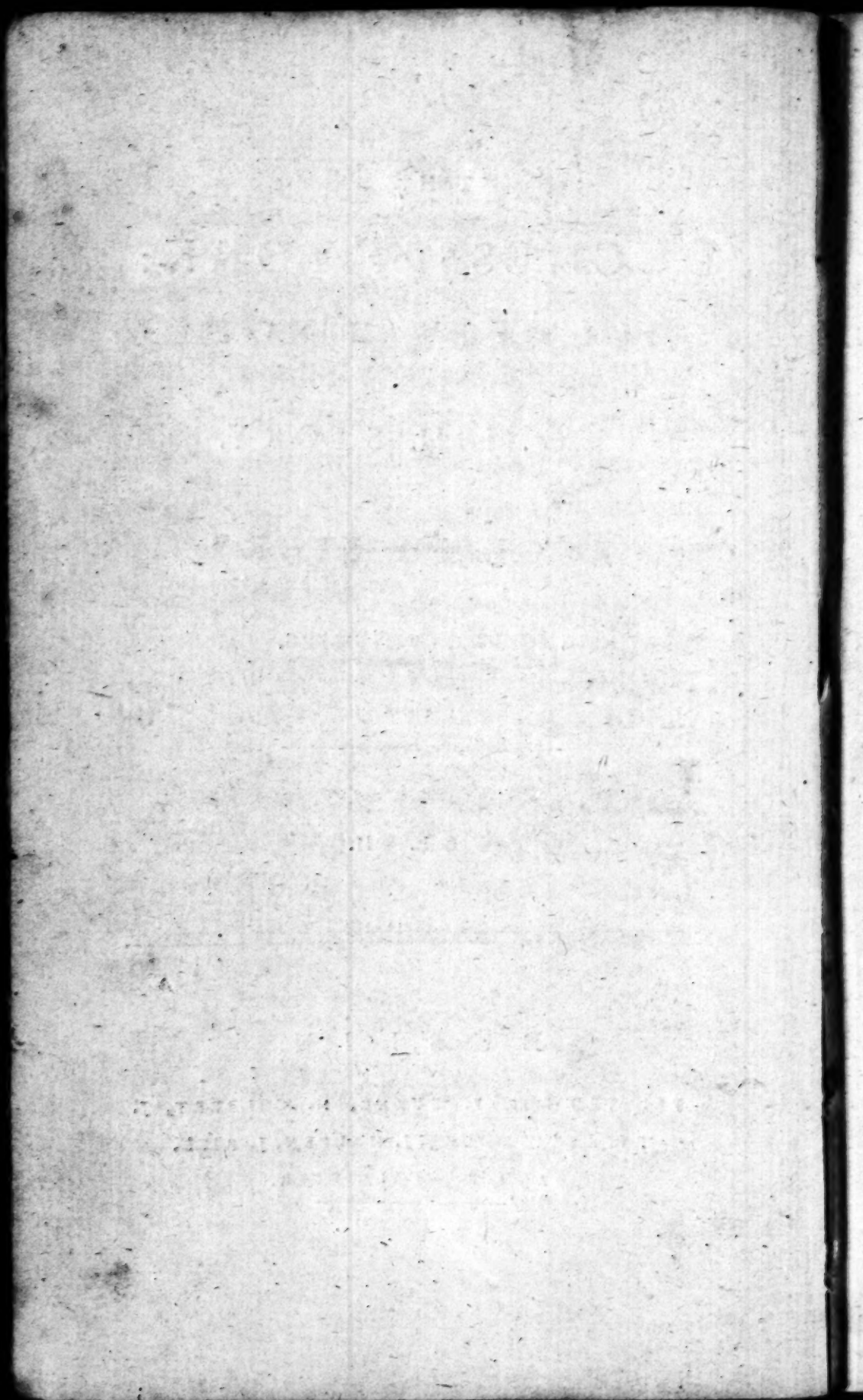
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

D U B L I N:

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M.DCC.XCI.



DUCHESS OF YORK:

AN

ENGLISH STORY.

LADY Clarendon was alone when Harris went to her; knowing the delicacy of the point she had to manage, she took her measure so, as to prepare the mind of her Ladyship for what she was about to impart.

To this end she enquired, if any reports had reached England, respecting an attachment.

tachment between the Duke of York and Miss Hyde?

Lady Clarendon replied in the negative, and demanded if there had been any such at the Court of the Princess of Orange. She was then informed, that the circumstance had been much the subject of conversation there, nor was it without grounds, that his Royal Highness had been suspected of entertaining a passion for her mistress; he had, to her knowledge, the tenderest affection, and strongest esteem for her, that it was impossible to entertain; as indeed he had evinced in such expressions and conduct, in the presence of herself, as had not only persuaded her of his strong affection, but convinced her Miss Hyde could never have a lover more deserving of her, independent of his exalted situation; and she believed her young mistress was not insensible to his Royal Highness's merit.

Lady

Lady Clarendon expressed the utmost astonishment at this intelligence; a thousand different ideas and sensations rushed on her mind at once: to see a beloved child, placed in such an elevated situation, by the man she preferred, and who was worthy that preference, would give her the highest degree of happiness; but the obstacles that were in the way of it, one of the strongest, she knew, would arise from the Chancellor; and the apprehension of her darling child being involved in the miseries of an ill-fated attachment, which might also bring ruin on the whole family, impressed her with the most alarming fears.

Harris did not, however, leave her long in the perplexities attending these meditations, but pointed all the advantages of the union, in its most vivid colours; the happiness it would bring to her young mistress;

mistress; the honor it would confer on the family, and the triumph they would have over their unjust persecutors.

She then represented the few objections there could be to it, and insinuated, if such an union could take place secretly, when it was accomplished beyond the power of recalling, all parties who were concerned in it, would, of necessity, be soon reconciled.

Lady Clarendon was startled at this, and strongly reprobated the idea of such a step, declaring she would sooner lose her child, or see her even for ever wretched, than consent to such a dishonorable act.

From the silence and the marked expressions of Harris on her saying this, she began to suspect the truth; conviction soon followed; she questioned her as to the real

real state of the case, and was then told the whole truth with all its circumstances.

Though Harris greatly dreaded offending her benefactress, and knew how strong her resentment would be, yet was her affection for her young mistress so powerfully useful, as to supersede every selfish consideration, and, therefore, she, in pursuance of her resolution, employed every palliative argument in favour of Miss Hyde's conduct, and took to herself the blame of having influenced her to act contrary to her sentiments and duty; and severely as she felt the consequence of taking this generous part, she had the fortitude not to regret it, or to lament that she had advised what drew down on herself a censure of the keenest kind; for she saw, that had she not advised the step at the time, its accomplishment now would have been impossible.

Severe,

Severe, indeed, were the reproaches Lady Clarendon gave Harris; she represented her as having betrayed the most sacred of all trusts; she had placed her about her child, too young to judge for herself, as a guardian who would watch over her conduct, and prevent her being drawn into any act that would bring disgrace on a family, who had ever preferred any evil of life, nay all its evils combined, to doing aught that should occasion their drawing any reflection to be cast on their fame: so far had she, who so well knew their sentiments, with whom was thus entrusted this their dearest deposit, been from fulfilling her duty or answering their expectations; that she had betrayed their confidence, brought disgrace on their name, and most probably occasioned the ruin of their family. Henceforth, she must consider her as their greatest enemy; therefore she might go to her mistress, and they might

might mutually deplore the consequences of disobedience, ingratitude, and treachery.

Harris had too much judgment, and too much respect for Lady Clarendon, to offer any arguments in her own defence, while her Ladyship's resentment was so great; she, therefore, made no reply, but, with a countenance expressive of her sorrow for having offended, quitted the apartment.

She greatly lamented having grieved Lady Clarendon, but hoping a different issue than her Ladyship had apprehended, and knowing her gentleness of character, imagined her indignation would so on yield to milder sentiments. She, therefore, concealed from her lovely mistress the present extent of her mother's indignation, and gave her the comfort of hoping a few
days

days would reconcile her to the step, and restore her to her favor.

Harris was not deceived in her opinion; Lady Clarendon possessed the utmost tenderness of nature; she could not long retain her resentment against those on whom her regard had so long rested. She considered, when her first emotions had subsided, that Harris, however mistaken in the means, had the purpose of promoting the advantage of her family in view; and her heart naturally was inclined to make the most of the excuses that presented themselves in favor of her child; besides, she reflected how much Ann would require such a friend to stand between her and her father, whose resentment she was satisfied would know no bounds; the effect of this on her child, in her present situation, if not meliorated by the kind offices of a mother, might be fatal; she, therefore, after

after a few days total reserve, and some severe remonstrances, restored Ann to her favor, and they consulted, together with the Duke, the best method of announcing the circumstance to the public, and reconciling the parties most concerned to it.

The Duke told them, he found the King so very favorably disposed towards him, that he had little doubt of obtaining his approbation of the union, when he found his whole happiness depended on it; and also that he relied on his consent to a public solemnization of it, from knowing his Majesty thought more highly of Miss Hyde than any Lady about the Court; that the very great credit in which the Chancellor stood with him, would prove also a powerful assistance towards reconciling him to the business.

These

These circumstances, and the reflection that, at all events, the matter was irretrievable, would, he doubted not, produce the effect of rendering the King propitious to his wishes.

He owned he had more fear in respect to the Chancellor, but yet trusted, that if he joined the King to his party, his Lordship's objections would be over-ruled.

He said, he should make it his first business to go to the King, and would inform them of the result the instant of his quitting him.

What an interval for the sensible heart of Ann! Hope, fear, doubt and despair, chased each other perpetually in her mind; nor could all the encouraging expressions of the Duke, nor the efforts of her mother and Harris, prevent her entertaining
the

the most fearful presages of an unfortunate issue to his Royal Highness's suit.

In a few hours, however, Ann was relieved from the tortures of suspense. A messenger arrived from the Duke; he brought a letter which gave pleasure so complete an empire over her heart, that scarce was she sensible to any other influence.

He told her, that his favorable expectations had been fully answered, by the King's gracious reception of what he had imparted; for though, at first, he had naturally expressed astonishment, and some resentment, at a step of such importance being taken without his knowledge or concurrence, yet his indignation had soon given way, and he acknowledged, that the merit of the object of his affections
was

was a justification of almost any step taken to obtain her.

He promised his brother to do all that depended on him towards confirming the marriage; but said, as all whom it was necessary to reconcile to it were so very averse, time would be required to bring the matter to the issue he wished.

In the mean time, he assured the Duke, he might rely on his services. The first step in which should be his endeavours to reconcile the Chancellor to the matter.

The Duke then described the expressions of his gratitude to the King, for his gracious condescension and paternal kindness, and felicitating his beloved wife on the happy prospect that presented itself, concluded.

FEW

FEW human beings could be found now more worthy of envy than the lovely Ann; her apprehensions, that the power of the King might have dissolved her marriage, or separated her from her husband, had precluded her yielding to the secret satisfaction of being united to the object of her affection.

To have these apprehensions dissipated in so pleasing a manner, as by the King's flattering testimony of his approbation of her, was calculated to give her the completest satisfaction.

To this was added, the perfect reconciliation of her mother, and the hope that (through the intervention of the King) her father, and all other parties, would, in the course of a short time, be reconciled to her marriage,

marriage. So that the fairest prospect of perfect happiness now opened to the view of this charming woman.

But never did the wheel of fortune move more rapidly than in this instance; a few days not only reversed all these bright hopes, but overwhelmed her with every misery that was most afflictive, save one, the consciousness of deserving them.

Some beautiful lines of a woman, whose works do honor to her head and heart, may, on this occasion, be applied to our heroine *.

* I trust I shall be excused the liberty I have taken with chronology (on more than one occasion) in making Lady Ormond quote passages written since her time. The author of these lines adorns the reign of George the III^d. but the striking application of her sentiment to the character I have described, influenced me to antedate her admirable works.

“ Heaven,

“ Heaven, when it gives such high wrought
souls as her’s,

“ Still gives as great occasions to exert
them.

Whispers now began to circulate, of a projected marriage between the Duke of York and Miss Hyde ; various were the conjectures formed on the subject ; few, however, believed that it could possibly take place ; the known aversion of the Queen to the Chancellor, the little intercourse between him and the Duke, the strong objections that would arise on the part of the Princess Royal, all these circumstances seemed to throw such insurmountable objects in the way of this union, that very little credit was given to the report.

In a short time the conduct of the Duke confirmed the general opinion, but before I relate this event, or account for it, I must

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acquaint

acquaint you with the manner in which the Chancellor became acquainted with the matter, as that first took place.

His Lordship, on this occasion, evinced more of the Roman virtue than of English patriotism; few circumstances of his life more strongly mark his character, than his conduct at this period; I will give you the full particulars, as I had them from the Marquis.

It often happens, that those who are the most interested in any event, are the last to have the report of it. Thus it happened with the Chancellor, who had never heard of the rumour that was spread of his daughter's marriage.

The King, urged by his brother to complete his happiness, now resolved to mention the matter to his Lordship.

He

He knew him so well as to be convinced, it would be a difficult matter to reconcile him to it; for he believed, and justly, that his integrity and loyalty were such, that he would sacrifice his family, dear as they were to him, rather than consent to any act that would impeach his rectitude, or in the eyes of the world disgrace the Royal Family.

Impressed with this conviction, his Majesty sought to open the business in the manner most calculated to soften the severity of the Chancellor.

To this end he sent for Lord Southampton and my husband, whom he knew to be his bosom friends, and informed them of all particulars relating to the affair, viz. the private marriage, his brother's avowal of it, the strong expression of his affection, his earnest petition, accompanied even

with tears for his Majesty's consent to its confirmation, and resolution to bid an eternal adieu to England, if the King should withhold it.

He added, that however surprised and angry he had at first been, his affection for his brother, knowledge of the Lady's superior merits, and other considerations, had disposed him to excuse the deed, and to do all in his power to reconcile others to it.

His Majesty then commanded them "to desire the Chancellor to accompany them to his own chamber, at Whitehall, immediately; as he wanted to consult them on a business of great importance, which he should recommend to their joint consideration."

They

They went directly to the Chancellor, and when they had brought him to Whitehall, Lord Ormond said, the business which they had requested his attendance now to consider, was of a nature that would greatly disturb him; but, as it required the utmost judgment he could exert to settle it properly, he hoped the Chancellor would compose his mind, and prepare it to receive the intelligence, with the calmness requisite.

He then proceeded to acquaint him, that the Duke of York had avowed a great affection for his daughter to the King, and he apprehended she would become a mother by him; thence his Majesty had required their presence to consult what was to be done,

The manner in which the Chancellor received this intelligence, made it evident,

that he had never had the least intimation, or suspicion of it; he was struck to the heart, and, for some time, surprise and indignation deprived him of speech: when he recovered it, he broke out into the most immoderate passion against his daughter's wickedness, saying, with the utmost earnestness, that "immediately on his return home, he would turn her out of his house, as a strumpet, to shift for herself, and would never see her more."

To this the Marquis replied, that "he suffered his passion to master his reason so much, as totally to incapacitate him from judging or acting properly. There was little doubt of the Duke's being married to his daughter, and there were other measures to be taken than those which his distempered mind had suggested to him."

This,

This, instead of diminishing, augmented his rage. He said, if it were true she was married to the Duke, he was well prepared what advice to give; that he would much rather his daughter was his Royal Highness's mistress, than his wife; in the former case nobody could blame him for the resolution he had taken, for he was not obliged to keep a mistress for the greatest Prince alive, and the indignity to himself he would submit to the good pleasure of God. But if there were any reason to suspect the above, he was ready to give a positive judgment, in which he hoped their Lordships would concur with him: that the King should immediately cause the woman to be sent to the Tower, and to be cast into a dungeon, under so strict a guard, that no person living should be admitted to see her; and then, that an act of parliament should be immediately passed for the cutting off her head; to

which he would willingly be the first man to propose it.

In saying this, his mind was wrought up to such an agony, that a flood of tears burst from his eyes.

AT this point of time the King entered the room, and sat down at the table ; perceiving the tears and extreme agitation of the Chancellor, he asked the other Lords what they had done, and whether they had resolved on any thing ?

The Earl of Southampton, said, “ His Majesty must consult with soberer men ; “ that he (pointing to the Chancellor) “ was mad, and had proposed such extra-
“ vagant

“vagrant things, that he was no more to
“be consulted with.”

On which his Majesty, looking at him with the utmost benignity, said, “Chancellor, I knew this business would trouble
“you, and, therefore, appointed your two
“friends to confer with you upon it, before I would speak with you myself.
“But you must now lay aside all passion
“that disturbs you, and consider this business will not do itself; that it will quickly take air, and therefore it is fit I resolve what to do before other men, uncalled, presume to give their counsel.
“Tell me, therefore, what you would have me do, and I will follow your advice.”

His Majesty then enlarged on the passion of his brother, and the assurances he had repeatedly given, that he never would marry any other woman.

Upon which the Chancellor arose, and with a little composure, said, "Sire, I hope
" I need make no apology to you, on my
" own account, respecting this transaction,
" which I regard with so much detestation.
" That though I could have wished your
" brother had not thought proper to put
" this disgrace on me, I had much rather
" submit, and bear it with all humility,
" than that it should be repaid by making
" her his wife, the thought whereof I do
" much abominate, that I would much rather
" see her dead, with all the infamy
" that is due to her presumption."

He then repeated all that he had before said to the Lords, of sending her to the Tower, and the rest, and concluded, "Sire, I do, upon all my oaths which I
" have taken, to give you faithful counsels, and from all the sincere gratitude I
" bear you, for so many obligations, re-
" new

“ new this counsel to you, and do beseech
“ you to pursue it, as the only expedient
“ that can free you, from the evil that this
“ business will otherwise bring upon you.”

Observing, by the King's countenance,
that he was not pleased with this advice,
he added, “ I must want discernment
“ more than any mortal ever did, if, hav-
“ ing been with your Majesty so many
“ years, I do not know your infirmities
“ better than any man. You are of too
“ easy and gentle a nature, to contend with
“ those rude attacks and insults, which the
“ iniquity and license of the late times is
“ likely to assault you with, before it is sub-
“ dued and reformed. The presumption
“ of all kinds of men, on your easiness of
“ temper, is too notorious to all, and la-
“ mented by all who wish you well. Trust
“ me, Sire, an example of the highest se-
“ verity, in a case that so materially con-
“ cerns

“cerns you, and that relates to the person
“who is nearest to you, will be so season-
“able, that your reign, during the re-
“maining part of your life, will be the
“easier to you, and all men will take care
“how they impudently offend you.”

He had scarce done speaking when the Duke of York came in, upon which the King turned the conversation to some other subject, and soon after went out of the room, with his brother, and imparted to him all that had passed.

Immediately after this communication, the Duke sent to Ann (whom I shall henceforth distinguish by her title, as she was now known to be Duchess of York) to prepare her for the storm that was approaching, and concert a plan for their meeting, to consult on what was to be done.

Fortunately

Fortunately for her, she received this before the return of her father. She had supposed the violent effect of the information on him, and therefore was not surprised, though deeply grieved, at the Duke's communication.

As soon as the Chancellor returned home, he related what had passed to Lady Clarendon, requiring her to go instantly to her daughter, and command her to confine herself to her chamber, where she was to receive no visitors.

Her Ladyship made no opposition to this, knowing how injudicious it is to contend any point, when a person is under the influence of passion. She doubted not, that when the first edge of his resentment was worn off, her lenient counsels, and interposition, would have due effect; and she resolved, in the mean time, to render her daughter's

daughter's confinement as easy as she could.

Too much occupied with his own ideas, to observe the effect of his intelligence on his wife; the Chancellor was not struck with the little surprise she expressed at his communication, and being so well acquainted with her gentle and sweet disposition, which led her always to palliate the errors of others, her conduct, on this occasion, was unnoticed by him.

The Chancellor thought fit to take no other step in this business, till he had reflected a little on it.

By this resolution the Duke was empowered to visit his lovely wife, which was managed with so much dexterity, that the Chancellor had no suspicion of the intercourse.

His

His Royal Highness immediately, therefore, was apprised of the restraint imposed on his wife, of which he complained extremely to the King, expressing his resentment at the act, as an indignity offered to himself.

The next morning his Majesty, in consequence, chid the Chancellor, for proceeding with so much precipitation, and required him to recal his commands, and give his daughter liberty.

To which his Lordship replied, that her not having discharged the duty of a child, ought not to deprive him of the authority of a father; and, therefore, he must humbly beg his Majesty not to interpose his commands, to oppose his doing any thing that his own dignity required: that he only expected what his Majesty would do, upon the advice he had presumed to offer him,

him, and, when he saw that, he himself would act as he was sure would become him.

Nor did he take off any of the restraint he had imposed, though he afterwards learned that it had not precluded the visits of the Duke.

THAT this matter now became the subject of general discourse, you will not wonder; but the Chancellor, to his excessive surprise, found that it occasioned not those murmurs, reflections, or any of the consequences he had naturally apprehended.

On first hearing of it, he conceived nothing else than the loss of his fame, and the
ruin

ruin of himself would ensue. He supposed the King would conceive him the contriver or abettor of this indignity offered to the Crown, which would draw on him his severe indignation, and also inflame the whole kingdom to furnish such an act, and prevent, by every possible means, the dishonor resulting from it. He, therefore, expected a sentence of everlasting banishment to be pronounced against him, and to pass the remainder of his days in a foreign land, overwhelmed with the evils of poverty, misery, and the loss of reputation.

THESE apprehensions were not, however, of long duration; for though the Parliament was sitting, they took no notice of it, nor was it apparent that many were scandalized at the transaction.

The

The Duke himself in the House, now frequently was observed to sit by him, on the Woofsack, that he might the more easily confer with him upon the matter in debate, which led people to think they were on good terms; yet, it is certain, his Royal Highness never, on any of these occasions, spoke one word to him of his marriage.

THE King, so far from shewing any indignation against the Chancellor, on the occasion, took pains to reconcile him to it; and was too well acquainted with his character, to have once entertained a suspicion of his being privy to the matter.

He repeatedly now advised him, "to conduct himself with moderation, as the thing

“ thing was ir retrievable: he was satisfied
“ the marriage had taken place; that it
“ would soon be published, and all must
“ know nothing could be done in it.”

These effects, so contrary to what he had expected arising, contributed to appease the Chancellor in some degree; but he still demonstrated his resentment against his daughter, whom he now sent for, to interrogate respecting the marriage; expressing, in the sharpest terms, his indignation at her disobedience, insincerity, and imprudence. And, after she had related all the circumstances of the affair, and given him unquestionable proof of her being the Duke's wife, he dismissed her, without shewing her the least indulgence.

But being now assured of her marriage, he was diverted from exercising that rigour he had proposed.

You

You will judge, my dear Lady Mor-daunt, that this resentment of a parent, she sincerely loved, affected the Duchess greatly; it, indeed, embittered all her hours, and prevented her enjoying the happy prospect, which the fortunate turn of affairs presented.

This evil, however, was only the prelude to those of a severer nature, which were preparing to overwhelm the soul of this charming woman.

NEWs now arrived of the embarkation of the Princess Royal in Holland, which obliged the King and the Duke of York to take a journey to Dover, to receive her.

The

The ostensible cause of this voyage, was to congratulate her brother, and partake the public joy on his restoration.

The real occasion was to prevent the marriage of the Duke of York: she had received tidings of the steps in agitation, and that the thing had actually taken place; but she, notwithstanding, hoped, from something which had been communicated to her, by Sir Charles Berkeley, that when she arrived in England, and should consult with him, the train that was already laid, and their further efforts, would frustrate the intentions of the Duke, and prevail with him, not only to give up all thoughts of confirming his marriage by a public solemnization, but to annul it if possible. The fruit of this plot you will presently see.

The

The morning that the King and his brother set out on their journey, they called on the Chancellor. After his Majesty had spoken of some business, that was to be done in his absence, he went out of the room.

The Duke then addressed the Chancellor; he told him, " he knew his Lordship had heard of the marriage between him and his daughter, and confessed he ought to have mentioned it to him before; but, when he came from Dover, he would discourse fully with him on the subject, and hoped to satisfy him; in the mean time, begged him to mitigate the punishment of his child, as she took his resentment so much to heart."

To this the Chancellor made no other reply, than that it was an affair of too much importance for him to enter upon.

The

The Duke then gave him a letter he had received from his mother, assuring him, at the same time, it had not the least affected him, or influenced him to alter his resolution.

Saying which, he withdrew, and left the letter with the Chancellor. It contained the bitterest invective against the Duke, reproaching him for his meanness of spirit, in entertaining the idea of marrying a woman so much beneath him ; and assuring him her Majesty would employ every possible means to prevent such a stain and dishonor to the Crown.

To the King she wrote nearly the same thing ; adding, she should immediately set out for England, to interpose her authority, as a preventative to such a disgrace ; and made use of such threats, and violent expressions,

expressions, as proved how vehement her resentment was.

This was new matter of speculation at Court, where a report was speedily circulated, "that the Queen was coming to England, for the purpose of complaining to parliament against the Chancellor, and to oppose the marriage of the Duke, or find some remedy for so great a mischief."

All these rumours, however, had no effect on his Lordship, who was as totally unconcerned, as if he had no share in them.

The Duchess was somewhat alarmed by them; but the tender assurance of her husband, that no power on earth should ever tear him from her, repeated with more energy than ever on their separation, and the very great favor in which she

she stood with the King, contributed greatly to calm her apprehensions.

THE arrival of the Princess Royal in London, gave a new turn to affairs, and the change involved the lovely Duchess in the deepest sorrow.

The Duke not only refrained from performing his promise of speaking to the Chancellor, but absented himself entirely from her, without assuming any cause for his conduct, or taking any notice of her. What a stroke to Ann! surprise, and the keenest anguish, possessed her soul; to be thus neglected, at such a period, by him to whom she had trusted the sacred pledge of her happiness; so lately too assured of

his unalterable love; to be deserted, left to the contempt of the world, without even knowing the occasion!

What a source of heart-rending grief! but deep as was the affliction, this gave to the sensibility of Ann; her bitter cup was not yet filled.

A report was now industriously circulated, that the treaty of marriage (for it was yet known to few, that it had been privately celebrated) was entirely broken off; for that the Duke had discovered, on unquestionable evidence, that the Lady had been unfaithful, and he was, therefore, resolved never to see her more.

This stroke was calculated to overwhelm very power of a mind, conscious to the value of unsullied fame. The sensibility of Ann gave it all its agonizing influence over her; but, though her spirit was wounded,

wounded, though she keenly felt all the bitterness of her accumulated woes, she sunk not beneath them. Innocence, like a cherub, spoke comfort to her; and religion, in this house of visitation, poured the balm on her wounds, which it ever prepares for those who have a claim to its salutary influence.

Resigned to the will of him, whom she believed disposed of all things for the best, though she felt her afflictions, she did not murmur; though the tears and sighs of poignant grief forced their passions from her sad heart, yet never was a complaint of others heard to issue from her lips.

Amongst those who were most busied in circulating the reports of the Duke's desertion, and its scandalous occasion, none were more active than Lord Berkeley, and his nephew; whose envy and hatred of

the Chancellor, had augmented in proportion as he gained the favor of his Majesty.

They exulted now in the idea of the disgrace and misery, they had brought on the man they so greatly abhorred. But their triumph was by no means complete, since his Majesty, so far from giving credit to the report, or withdrawing his favor from the Chancellor on the occasion, behaved with more than usual kindness to him; he sought every occasion of speaking in the most gracious terms of him, and this to all who approached him.

To the Chancellor himself, the King said, with an expression of much concern, "That his brother was abused, and that
"there was a wicked conspiracy set on
"foot by villains, which, in the end, must
"prove more dishonorable to the Duke
"than any body else."

THE

THE Queen now sent word of her being ready to embark, it was, therefore, requisite that the King and the Duke should attend her at the shore.

Before their departure, however, his Majesty resolved to give such a distinguishing mark of his favor to the Chancellor, as should prove, that so far from his credit being hurt with him, it stood higher than ever.

From the time of his coming to England, he had often proposed to the Chancellor his being made a baron, telling him, he was assured, by many of the lords, that it was most necessary for his service in parliament.

But he still persisted in refusing it, saying, it would increase the envy against him, if his Majesty should confer that honor on him so soon; that, hereafter, when the affairs of the kingdom should be settled, and he, out of the extraordinary perquisites of his office, should be able to make some addition to his small fortune, he would, with all due humility, receive the honor.

A few days before the King's setting out, being alone with the Chancellor in his cabinet, he gives him at his going away, a little billet, that contained, in his own hand-writing, a warrant to Sir Stephen Fox, to pay the Chancellor the sum of twenty thousand pounds.

This bounty, flowing immediately from the King at such a melancholy conjuncture, could not but greatly raise his drooping spirits.

Nor

Nor did his Majesty's goodness rest here, for the night before his journey he sent for the Attorney General, who he knew to be most devoted to the Chancellor, and told him, "he must entrust him
" in an affair, which he must not impart
" to the Chancellor," and then gave him a warrant, signed, for the creating him a baron, which he commanded to be made ready to pass the seal against the hour of his Majesty's return, and he would then see it sealed himself; but if the Chancellor was first apprised of it, he would be very importunate to have a stop put to it.

The Attorney General said, "it would
" be impossible to conceal it from him, be-
" cause, without his privy and direction,
" he knew not what title to give him for
" his barony."

The King replied, with warmth, "that
" he would confer with some of his friends
" on the road respecting that; but he
" should take it very ill of him, if there
" was any delay; and if it was not ready
" for the seal, at the time of his return,
" which would be in a few days."

The Attorney General on this went to
the Chancellor, and told him, " he was
" now going to break a trust, in order to
" do him a service, and therefore presum-
" ed he would not be so unjust as to let
" him suffer by it."

He then related all that had passed be-
tween the King and him.

The Chancellor confessed, " that his
" Majesty's gracious manner of proceed-
" ing, the crisis at which the honor was
" conferred, made that grateful to him
" now,

“ now, which he had before so vehement-
“ ly opposed ; and, therefore, without fur-
“ ther hesitation, told him what title he
“ would assume.”

By this means all was ready against the King's return, and signed and sealed by him the same night..

THE Queen's arrival put the finishing stroke to Anna's misfortunes ; and, at the same time, unveiled the cause of them.

It became publicly known, that, on the meeting of her Majesty with the King and the Duke, she had, with the violence of passion natural to her, expressed her indignation at his Royal Highness's attachment, and that he had asked her pardon, for having placed his affections so unequal-

ly; assuring her, there was now an end to the business, for he was resolved never to see the late object of them more.

This pacified the Queen; and she restored him to her favor.—The reason assigned by the world for this change in the Duke's sentiments, was, that Sir Charles Berkeley had informed him, at the time of their going to meet the Princess Royal, at Dover, "That, hearing the report of his
"projected marriage with Miss Hyde, he
"thought himself bound, in conscience,
"to prevent his taking a wife so wholly unworthy of him; that he, himself, had
"been connected with her; and though
"he now believed his Royal Highness had
"been too much in her favor also, yet,
"for the great regard he bore him, he
"was content to marry her."

To the truth of this, he swore so solemnly, and offered to bring such powerful evidence

evidence of the intimacy that had subsisted between him and the lady, that the Duke, who had the highest regard for, and confidence in him, was impressed with a conviction of the truth of his affection; and hence resolved, not only to avoid any future intercourse with her, but to take every possible measure for dissolving the marriage.

He was in this disposition when he went to meet his mother, and, therefore, had so readily acquiesced in her commands.

It was now resolved by her Majesty, the Duke, and the Princess Royal, with their partisans, to employ every means for the destruction of the Chancellor; and their hope of success was very sanguine, as the King had attended, without reply or debate, to all his mother's bitterness against him and his family.

Judge,

Judge, therefore, dear Lady Mordaunt, their surprise and vexation, when the very next morning after their arrival in London, they saw the Chancellor appear in parliament, in the robes of a peer,

Convinced, from this circumstance, how fruitless it would be to carry on their design against him, they, with much concern, gave it up; but their other plan was pursued with the utmost diligence of malice and persecution.

YOU will now, my dear friend, have discovered the cause of Sir Charles Berkeley's attaching himself to Miss Hyde, at the time of her being at the court of the Princess,

This

This was his aim, in the plan which he informed her Royal Highness he had framed, to discover the Duke's sentiments, and prevent any of the consequences she apprehended from it.

When he informed the Duke of his pretended connection with Miss Hyde, he reminded him of the conversation they had held respecting her, in Holland.

Sir Charles said, he had always admired her; but the reports circulated of his Royal Highness's attachment, prevented his making a discovery of his sentiments, or endeavouring to join her affections, till he knew the truth.

That his Highness's denying it, and saying he was at liberty to pay what attentions to Miss Hyde he thought proper, had removed all obstacles to the avowal of his passion;

passion; he had, therefore, made a declaration of it, and sought every means of rendering her favourable to him, in which he had succeeded to his utmost wish.

That the Princess had marked his gracious reception, to which others, who had witnessed it, also could give testimony; and that it was at her own request he had accompanied her to England.

You will conceive this artful man took all necessary precautions for corroboration of his evidence, in case of its being required.

The Duke's jealousy, which, as you will have observed, was easily alarmed, took fire instantly; conviction seemed to flash on his mind; the circumstance he had before disregarded, now occurred forcibly to him,

These,

These, with the testimony of a man he so confidently relied on, left no doubt on his mind; and, if he had even been inclined to hesitate for a moment, his sister's testimony, which he thought unquestionable, would have completed his conviction of his wife's disloyalty.

At the time of Sir Charles Berkeley's seeing the Princess at Dover, he had told her of the plot's being now ripe for execution; and hinted, that if he had her Royal Highness's assistance, he would ensure success.

That she need say very little on the subject, for a seasonable time, and a few hints in corroboration of his testimony, would, in the situation of the Duke's mind, on receiving the information, be sufficient. To this the Princess was influenced to consent.

And

And thus did a woman, whose excellence was almost super-human, become the victim of the greatest villainy that ever was practised.

Scarcely a day now passed, that the Chancellor did not receive some insult from the party formed against him.

The Earl of St. Albans, Lord Berkeley, and his set, took every opportunity of braving him.

Though this produced none of the effects they wished, on the subject against whom it was levelled, it deeply affected his daughter, who could not but hear of it, and feel herself the occasion.

Misfortune had now levelled all its sharpest arrows against her. On the point of being a mother to a child, whose father
had

had cast her from him ; deprived of his affection, on whom her heart rested its every hope of happiness ; deprived of tender parents regard, and her name dishonoured, what situation could be more replete with heart rending calamity !

But the mind of this excellent creature was still unsubdued by these severe trials. Supported by fortitude, conscious innocence, and genuine piety, she looked, with humble confidence in the mercy of her Creator, for the time when he should execute judgment and righteousness for her, who was oppressed with wrong, and committing her way to the Lord, she trusted he would make her righteousness clear, as the light of her just dealing, as the noon day, and would finally bring her out of all her trouble.

THE

THE day after the Queen's arrival, all the Privy Council, in a body, waited on her Majesty, to congratulate her return into England. The Chancellor was obliged to go at the head of them, and, notwithstanding her Majesty's secret sentiments, she received him with the same graciousness as the others; saying many obliging and pleasant things on the occasion.

The Chancellor, however, never paid her further attention, which was noticed much, but the King continued to shew the same degree of favor to him as ever; and not only to him, but to all who were entrusted by him, which made it evident, that he gave no credit to the report of Sir Charles Berkeley.

Indeed,

Indeed, it was well known that his Majesty had entertained the worst opinion of him, long before his return to England, and that it was still the same.

THE period now arrived, when Ann became a mother. It happened that the King was at the Chancellor's house, with the Committee of Council, when she was taken ill. Being apprised of it by her father, his Majesty directed him to send to the Countess of Sunderland, some other Ladies of the Court, and myself, whose known honor and fidelity to the Crown, he was pleased to say, he could rely on, to be present with her: the Bishop of Winchester also attended.

You

You will judge, my dear Lady Mordaunt, how sensibly we felt the sorrows and sufferings of this lovely and excellent young creature.

The Bishop had been instructed to question her on the subject of the Duke; in consequence, at the interval of her greatest agonies, and sometimes even when they were the strongest on her, he desired her, in the most solemn terms, to answer such questions as he should propose.

First, he demanded who was the father of her child?

She called Heaven to witness her truth, and owned it was the Duke of York.

He then enquired if she had ever had any other connection?

Which

Which she denied, with the most sacred protestations; adding she was sure the Duke could not believe it.

He then enquired whether she was married to the Duke?

She replied, she was, and there were witnesses who, in due time, would avow and prove it.

To many other interrogatories she gave satisfactory answers, and, throughout this time of trial, she conducted herself with such indescribable patience, fortitude and sweetness, as won, from all who were present, the utmost sympathy and esteem.

For my own part, my dear Lady Mordaunt, she so entirely conciliated my regard, and interested me in her welfare, that I resolved to leave nothing undone,
that

that was in my power, towards clearing her to the world, and reconciling her to the Duke.

In pursuance of this resolution, I took every occasion of mentioning the matter, and often, in the presence of those to whom the testimony was least acceptable; asserted my conviction of her innocence, and uncommon merit; nor did I find it a difficult matter to persuade the generality of people of this, except a very few who were interested in believing her guilty.

There were none who did not think she was greatly injured; people of the highest rank and character, spoke with the utmost detestation of the proceeding, and of Sir Charles, whose testimony was utterly discredited by them. The King proclaimed his opinion of the scandal on every occasion.

A FAVORABLE

A FAVORABLE opportunity offering for the purpose, I employed it to speak to the Duke of York on the subject. Sincerely interested in the cause, I entered on it with the energy so natural, when the heart dictates to the tongue.

I was happy to observe, by the agitation of the Duke, while I was speaking, that the subject affected him. I clearly perceived that he tenderly loved Ann, and wished to believe her innocent; but he thought the proof so strong of her guilt, and the impression of it was so deep on his mind, that it was not to be soon effaced.

Though I failed of entirely effecting my purpose then, I was encouraged to hope the time was not distant that would accomplish my wish; his Royal Highness
was

was so much affected, that I was persuaded he would not long be proof against the pleadings of love.

The intelligence of this interview, and the hopes I derived from it, which I communicated to Ann, were a source of great consolation to her.

She enjoyed, indeed, every comfort now, which her circumstances admitted; beloved by all who knew her, she had the sweet satisfaction to see affection and sympathy beam from every eye that approached her, while every tongue was lavish in the testimony of her worth.

Inclined neither to despondency or perverseness, she refused not the consolation that offered, but gratefully acknowledged. Her misfortunes, though severe, were greatly alleviated by the sympathy and affectionate

affectionate concern she saw so many respectable friends take in her welfare.

I was now much with her, and hence it is that I am enabled to bear testimony to her superior excellence; never did I see a mortal bear adversity with so much fortitude, and she has evinced the same greatness of mind, in a state supposed to be still more trying in prosperity.

In short, in all that I have ever witnessed of her conduct, I have found her so amiable, so great, so good, that I believe her superior never was known on earth.

THE Berkeleys, and their party, were extremely disconcerted and vexed, to find that they had failed in their attempt to

disturb the peace of the Chancellor, who continued to appear quite unconcerned at all that had passed.

They had flattered themselves, not only with the hope of giving him great disturbance, but that his impatience of the injustice done him, would influence him to say, or do something that should give them an advantage over him.

But, though they were disappointed in their expectation of this, they resolved to persuade the Duke, that the Chancellor was not so moderate as he affected to appear.

They, therefore, confidently affirmed to his Royal Highness, that the Chancellor had formed a great party in parliament, and was resolved, within a few days, to make a complaint against him in the house,
to

to produce the witnesses of the marriage, that they might be examined.—That, hence, their testimony remaining there, would be the greatest affront that could be offered to his Royal Highness.

To this, they added many particulars calculated to exasperate the Duke, who was so incensed at the communication, that he resolved immediately to speak to the Chancellor about it.

It had been universally noticed, that the Duke had never spoken to the Chancellor in the House of Peers, or any where else, since the time of his going to meet his sister; but on the present occasion he went to seek him; and finding him in the Privy Lodgings, he whispered him, that he should be glad to confer with him at his own apartments, whither he was then going.

His Lordship immediately followed, and being arrived, the Duke sent all his servants out of the way, and then told him, with great warmth, he had been informed of his intention to complain to the parliament of him, which he was not afraid of; but that, if he did proceed in such a measure, he would have occasion to repent it; that as for his daughter, she had so dishonored herself (of which the evidence was to him as strong as if he had witnessed it himself) that nobody could condemn his conduct towards her; and concluded with some threats of what he would do, if he pursued his intention of appealing to the parliament.

When the Duke concluded, the Chancellor told him, he hoped he would judge of the degree of credit to be given other reports that had been made to him, by the falsehood of this, which had been raised
without

without the least shadow or foundation of truth.

That though he did not pretend to much wisdom, yet no man took him for such a fool, as he must be, if he conceived such an intention as his Royal Highness had been informed of.

That if his Royal Highness had done him any injury, there was one who was as much above him, as the Duke was superior to himself, who would censure and punish it; for his own part, he knew too well whose son, and whose brother he was, to behave with less submission and duty towards him than were due; that he would never find him, on any occasion, deficient in them.

In respect to his daughter, he should not think it incumbent on him, to vindicate

her from any scandal or aspersions, however improbable ; she had disobliged and deceived him too much, for him to be over confident she might not deceive any other man ; and, therefore, he would leave that likewise to the Almighty, upon whose blessing he would always depend, whilst himself remained innocent, and no longer.

The Duke making no reply to this, the Chancellor took his leave ; but his Royal Highness was so favorably impressed by the discourse, which he repeated very exactly to the King and others, that he was never afterwards heard to speak with displeasure of the Chancellor.

His Lordship the less merited this imputation, as the advice had been given him, not to suffer the indignity thrown on him tamely, but to take some steps towards obtaining

obtaining redress ; but this he had resolutely refused.

The Queen still continued her implacable resentment, and made use of all her power and influence over the Duke, to keep him firm to his purpose, of never seeing his wife more, and encouraged, to the utmost of her power the calumny and scandal thrown on her.

JUST before the discovery of this affair, the Queen had been greatly afflicted, by the death of the Duke of Gloucester, who died of the small-pox ; this circumstance had also greatly affected the King and the whole nation.

The Princess Royal was now seized by that fatal disorder, and, from the symptoms she felt, was sensible of the approach of that awful period, in which conscience, casting off all the fetters our passions place on it, asserts its powers, and, by its testimony, anticipates our future fate; filling the soul of the bad with the keenest remorse, the bitterest anguish, and deepest despair; while to the good it is attended with confidence, peace, and the bright hope of enjoying everlasting felicity, in the mansions of the just.

Severely did the Princess repent, at this tremendous period, the injuries she had done to one, whom she had engaged to protect, and whose innocence and virtue she had the fullest conviction of.

Nor did she content herself with a fruitless regret;—resolving to do all in her
power

power to repair the wrong, she made an avowal of the share she had, in contributing to alienate the affection of the Duke from his wife, by acquiescing in the wicked plan contrived for that purpose.

She expressed her extreme sorrow for the effect—her sincere belief of the perfect innocence and virtue of the Duchess, and her earnest hope that the testimony, given by her at this awful crisis, would atone for the injury she had done, by clearing her character, and reconciling her to the Duke.—She lived only a few hours after this confession.

This sudden stroke, and the circumstances attending it, made a serious and deep impression on all who were connected with the Princess; but, far inferior were the sensations of every other person, when compared with those of the Duke of York.

K 5

A deep

A deep melancholy took possession of his mind ; far from seeking to dissipate his grief, by those amusements he had formerly delighted in, he refused to listen to the voice of consolation, excluding himself from all society, and yielding himself a prey to utter despondency.

This was a subject of great concern to those who were interested for him, which were not few, as he was extremely beloved.

In vain did they employ every art to draw him from his solitude, and tempt him to participate in his former amusements ; no persuasions, intreaties, or representations, could influence him to comply with their wishes.

Whether concern for this change in his royal master ; compunction excited by the
late

late awful event; apprehension of a discovery; or, the presentiment that a reconciliation would take place, which would involve him in ruin, produced the effect I am now to relate, respecting Sir Charles Berkeley, I cannot determine; but, whatever cause operated to produce the event, the consequence of some reflection on his mind, incited him to demand a private audience of the Duke, which he gave him to understand, was for the purpose of making a communication, in which the happiness of his Royal Highness was greatly interested.

Having obtained admission, he threw himself at the feet of the Duke, and, with an expression of the deepest contrition, implored his Royal Highness's pardon, for having employed a deception in regard to him, to which he had been influenced by a real concern for his welfare.

He

He then proceeded to say, that the general opinion of the mischief and unhappiness, if not absolute ruin that would ensue to his Royal Highness, from his contracting a marriage with Miss Hyde, had incited him to employ every possible means for breaking it off; sensible, that the affections were too deeply engaged, to allow of arguments having effect, he had formed the plan of that accusation, which had but too well succeeded.

But, deeply affected by observing the extreme unhappiness of his Royal Highness, he was solicitous to remove it, by avowing most solemnly, that his charge was utterly without grounds; for he was well assured of Miss Hyde's inviolable attachment to the Duke, as well as convinced of her virtue.

He

He added, that he was conscious his Royal Highness might doubt his veracity, since he had himself so scandalously impeached it; but the test of the truth on this occasion was, that he could have no motive for making the avowal, but the dictates of conscience; for he should be thrown by it in the power of his enemies, unless his Royal Highness should still vouchsafe to protect him.

He then earnestly implored the Duke to pardon a fault, that had been committed out of real, though, perhaps, mistaken zeal for his welfare, and continue to protect him, as he must otherwise fall a sacrifice to those he had so unjustly and unprovokedly injured; the sense of which so overwhelmed him with shame, that he had not the confidence to look up to them.

This

This confession operated like magic on the heart of the Duke; every impression of the grief he had been susceptible of in that point, where he most deeply felt, vanished, and the completest satisfaction ensued.

In that moment of happiness it was impossible to evince, or to conceive, any resentment against him, who had wrought the happy change.

The Duke, therefore, immediately raised Sir Charles, and embracing, assured him, he sincerely forgave all that was passed, from the persuasion of its being the effect of zeal for his welfare; and pledged himself, that Sir Charles should be so comprehended in the reconciliation, which it would be his first business to seek, that no ill consequence should arise to him from past events.

THE

THE first step taken by the Duke, was to write to the Duchess. His letter was expressive of his sincere penitence, sorrow, and affection; he related the plan that had been laid to deceive him; trusted, that as he had himself, as well as her, so severely suffered for his credulity, she would pardon and restore him to her regard; and, in his postscript, recommended his son to her care, and intreated her permission to visit her.

He then went to the King, and gave his Majesty (who was much pleased on the occasion) an account of what had passed, and evinced the happiness it gave him.

Not only the King, but the whole Court became sensible to the change wrought in him; far from concealing his satisfaction

or

or its cause, he took a peculiar pleasure in testifying it to those whom he had formerly avoided, from the little credit they gave to what had provoked his resentment.

His Royal Highness, in the most gracious manner, thanked me for my kind offices, and attention to the Duchess; lamented that he had not listened to my representations, and the suggestion of his own heart.

He assured me, he should ever regard me as one of his first friends, and think himself happy if he could obtain the esteem of one, who had so clearly proved her claim to the first character in life—a sincere friend.

YOU

YOU will have anticipated, my dear Lady Mordaunt, the information of Ann's sensations on receiving the Duke's letter.

Joy now illumined her bosom; like the sun emerging from a deep cloud, it burst at once in full brightness on her. Scarce could she believe her happiness to be real.

But when the first powerful emotions of her mind subsided, and brought her ideas to their wonted order, her grateful and pious spirit breathed its fervent offering of praise, of thanksgiving, to that Being who had so disposed events, as to manifest her innocence, and restore her to happiness.

When

When she had thus fulfilled her first duty, she wrote to the Duke, assuring him of her complete forgiveness of all the past, which she requested might never more be mentioned; and that she had never withdrawn her affections from him, because she was convinced his conduct proceeded from misrepresentation.

Then expressing her satisfaction at the testimony of her innocence, and happiness in the hope of seeing him soon, she concluded.

This letter soon brought the Duke to her feet.

Your imagination will easily suggest to you, my dear friend, the affecting interview of this amiable pair: it was the triumph of love and virtue, and they shed their

their brightest influence over the exquisite period.

The hearts on which this influence were conferred, were formed to enjoy it in all its extent; sensibility having prepared them to feel every sentiment in its completest energy.

To such an affectionate parent as yourself, my dear Lady Mordaunt, I need not describe the share Lady Clarendon took in her daughter's felicity.

THE tide of happiness now flowed in fast to the lovely Duchess: the King strenuously asserted her cause; he urged the publishing Sir Charles Berkeley's confession,

sion, as a matter that would give satisfaction to himself; and this circumstance tended to silence effectually those who had been most violent in their censure.

Indeed, as they consisted chiefly of such as saw only through the Queen's eyes, and understood only what she pleased they should, they were but few; and, as it was evident what turn the malice must take, such as were most disposed to encourage her resentment, assumed more moderation in their discourse.

But her Majesty became more enraged than ever, when she heard of the reconciliation that had taken place, and that his Majesty interested himself so much in the affair. She declared, in the utmost wrath, "that whenever that woman should be brought into Whitehall by one door, she
" would

“ would go out of it by another, and never
“ enter it more.”

When his Royal Highness came to wait on her, she refused to admit him into her presence. The King then undertook to introduce him; however, she still persisted in not speaking to him.

This conduct occasioned great uneasiness to the Royal Family.

Many of the Chancellor's friends strenuously urged him to make some application to the Queen, conceiving that might mollify and incline her to facilitate a step that she would, in the end, be obliged to take, as she could not maintain her ground singly.

But he absolutely refused to make any advances in the affair, or contribute to incense

cense her more, by obtruding himself into her presence; for he declared, he thought the Queen had great reason for the indignation she expressed. He should not, therefore, endeavour to excuse it; that, as far as his humble situation was capable of receiving an injury from so great a Prince, he had himself to complain of a transgression, that exceeded the limits of all justice, human and divine.

THE Queen had come to England much sooner than she intended, owing to her anxious solicitude, to prevent the marriage she had so strong an objection to; and, on her arrival, she declared her intention of making a very short stay, as she was desirous of returning to France, for the benefit of her health. She had found
much

much benefit from the use of the Bourbon waters, and meant to make another trial of them.

The time now being arrived that she had fixed for her departure, orders were sent for the ships to attend her embarkation at Portsmouth; and the day was appointed for her setting out from Whitehall.

The idea of her Majesty's quitting the kingdom, in her present state of mind, was very painful to the Duke, and still more so to his lovely Duchess, who felt herself the occasion of this uneasiness to him, whose happiness was the first object of her wishes.

The King shared in their concern, and did all in his power to remove the Queen's resentment, and reconcile her to the Duke; but

but all his arguments and persuasions proved so ineffectual, that it was the general opinion she would quit England, without taking off the interdiction she had laid on his Royal Highness.

But, on a sudden, her resolution changed, and, without any body being able to assign a cause for it, she received the Duke with her former kindness; and told him, that finding the business which had offended her so much, had proceeded too far for any measure of her's to put a stop to it, she should no longer interfere with, or trouble herself further in it; but would offer up her prayers for a blessing on him, and that he might be happy.

The Duke threw himself at the feet of his mother, expressing, with all the energy of feeling, his grateful sense of her condescending goodness: he said, as she was so
kind

kind to pray for his happiness, he trusted, when she knew it was in her own power to complete it, she would not withhold the means: that the sole remaining wish of his heart was now, that she would be reconciled to his wife, and graciously admit her to her presence; for the Duchess remained still at her father's, where the King frequently visited her.

The Queen made no opposition to this; on the contrary, desiring a general reconciliation, and spoke very graciously of the Chancellor, whom she particularly desired to be on an amicable footing with.

Some ceremonials, however, were requisite to bring these matters about with propriety.

For the preservation of her Majesty's dignity, it was necessary the Chancellor

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should

should make the first advance ; and as all who had been engaged in prosecuting the plan against the Hyde family, and had exposed themselves to her resentment, were required to be comprehended in the amnesty, much difficulty was still likely to ensue, before all matters could be adjusted.

The Chancellor was, in consequence of the arrangements made at Court, required to wait on the Earl of St. Alban, which he absolutely refused to do, giving for a reason, to his particular friends, that he was too well acquainted with the arts of that Court, whereof dissimulation was the very soul, to be persuaded that changes, for which he saw no reasonable motive, could be real.

Those to whom he said this, thinking he carried his suspicions and reserve too far
on

on this occasion, and anxious to promote the general wish of reconciliation, acquainted some of the Queen's party, whom they thought better of than the rest, with the Chancellor's reasons for refusing his assent to the proposed step.

Upon which the Abbot Montague (who had so far complied with the faction of the Queen's Court, as not to converse with an enemy) visited him openly, and told him, this change in the Queen had proceeded from a letter she had just received from Cardinal Richlieu, in which he had plainly told her, "She would not meet a favorable reception in France, if she quitted her sons in displeasure; and professed an animosity against those Ministers, who were most in the King's confidence: then highly extolled the services performed by the Chancellor, and advised her to comply with what could not be avoided, to

“ be perfectly reconciled to her children,
“ and to those who were nearly related
“ to, or trusted by them.”

This he further urged, in so powerful a style, and with such convincing arguments, that her Majesty's resentment was wholly subdued.

The Abbot added, that this was the reason of the sudden change that every body observed, and therefore he ought to believe the sincerity of it, and comply with what was required, on his part, towards promoting her Majesty's wish of a perfect reconciliation of all parties.

The Chancellor had never considered the Abbot as his enemy, therefore gave credit to what he now said ; though he was at a loss to trace the source of those favorable

ble sentiment of the Cardinal towards him, as he had never believed him his friend.

He made the strongest professions of his duty to the Queen, and said, how happy he should think himself in her protection, which he, in all humility, implored; and would gladly cast himself at her Majesty's feet, when she would vouchsafe to receive him.

But he made no mention of visiting the Earl of St. Alban; or any of that party; and as it was resolved to make the reconciliation general, the Abbot took his leave, to consult what step had best be taken to bring this about.

THE Duke now obtained permission to introduce Sir Charles Berkeley to the Duchess, for the purpose of asking her forgiveness of the injuries he had been guilty of towards her.

You will judge how greatly this interview must agitate and affect her; but, ever preserving her preminence of character, she received him with a mingled dignity and condescending goodness, that raised her higher, if possible, than ever, in his Highness's opinion.

Sir Charles cast himself at her feet, and, with the deepest contrition, acknowledged fully all the injustice and cruel wrongs he had done her.

She

She accepted his atonement with the utmost sweetness, promising never more to remember the offence ; and, true to her word, she was never afterwards known to mention his name in displeasure, or endeavor to deprive him of the favor of the Duke.

If, as surely as true, real greatness of mind is evinced in the forgiveness of our enemies, none ever more proved their claim to this glorious characteristic, than the Duchess of York.

Sir Charles then proceeded to wait on the Chancellor, to whom he made the same professions of repentance. He was received civilly by his Lordship, out of consideration to his Royal Master ; but the Chancellor was not much disposed to place confidence in his sincerity.

Lord Berkeley was now presented to the Duchess, and afterwards visited her father. On which last occasion he displayed his character in its real light, to the great entertainment of those who were apprised of the circumstances attending this whole business.

He affected to the Chancellor, to have interested himself extremely in promoting the reconciliation; felicitated himself on accomplishing it, though with great difficulty; and seemed to expect his Lordship's thanks on the occasion, but the Chancellor was not inclined to gratify him.

This was not the first instance that had occurred, wherein Lord Berkeley had, to his knowledge, claimed the merit of accommodating matters, which himself had principally contributed to embroil.

THE

THE satisfaction of the Royal Brothers, on the present favorable disposition of the Queen, was evident to every body: they both thought the Chancellor too reserved, in contributing his part towards conciliating her Majesty's favor, and were hurt at observing he entered not into the sentiments they now entertained as they wished.

The Duke frequently mentioned the subject to the King, and appeared to be so much grieved at it, that his Majesty resolved to notice it to the Chancellor.

In consequence, he went to his Lordship's house, and, being alone with him, his Majesty took occasion to mention the great good humour the Queen was in, and related many particulars in proof of her favorable disposition towards his Lordship.

He then acquainted him, that the next day the Earl of St. Alban would visit him, and offer his services to attend him to the Queen, which his Majesty conjured him to receive with due civility and testimony of satisfaction; for that it was observed, that now, when the minds of all other men appeared chearful, and disposed to a good understanding, his alone seemed more gloomy and fullen than it had been, even when affairs wore the most unpromising aspect. That this was more noticed, as it was not natural to him.

To this, the Chancellor replied, he was not conscious of his having failed in any point of good manners or propriety; but confessed, that of late, his thoughts had been more perplexed and uneasy to himself, than they had ever been before; and, therefore, it was not to be wondered at, that his conduct did not appear the same as it used to do.

That

That though he had been surprised, beyond all his power of description, at the first intelligence of his daughter's marriage, yet he was soon enabled to recollect himself, and, upon the testimony of his own conscience, to compose his mind and spirits, resolving to suppress all concern for his daughter, and yield her up to the misery she had brought on herself.

Nor did the vicissitudes which occurred after, in that transaction, or the displeasure and menaces of the Duke, make any other impression on him, than to convince him how unequal he was to conduct a matter, which, in all respects, was beyond his understanding and faculties, and, therefore, he resolved to leave it to the direction of Providence.

That, in consequence of this acquiescence, he had enjoyed a perfect tranquillity

lity of mind, attended with a degree of fortitude that had prepared him for any misfortune which might happen.

But now he was awakened to other reflections, which he was less able to arrange or govern.

He saw difficulties removed which he had thought insuperable; that hence, would arise consequences more fatal to him than those which he had before apprehended; since he had less to dread from indignation or contempt, than the envy which would be created by his exaltation.

His daughter was now received into the Royal Family, the wife of the King's only brother, and heir apparent of the crown, whilst his Majesty remained unmarried.

The great trust his Majesty reposed in him, infinitely beyond his wishes, was, in
itself,

itself, sufficiently calculated to inspire jealousy; and how greatly that would be augmented, by this new relation, he could plainly foresee.

This would influence envious and malignant men, to insinuate suspicions of him into his Majesty's mind, even when they affected to have most confidence in his integrity, and were most lavish in his commendation.

That how firm and constant soever his Majesty's favor was towards him at present (of which he had lately received such powerful testimony) and how resolved soever he was to continue it, his Majesty himself, could not know how far some suspicion, artfully suggested, might operate in future on his mind.

And,

And, therefore, upon all the revolvings he had with himself, he could not devise any plan, that would contribute so much to his Majesty's service, and his own quiet and security, as to retire from the station he was in, to solitude, and give up all concern with affairs of state.

This plan could not be so well completed, as by his leaving the kingdom, to settle in some place remote from any court.

Having proceeded thus far, he threw himself on his knees, and, with the utmost earnestness, desired the King to consent to his retiring, as a circumstance best calculated to promote his Majesty's service.

The King was silent till the Chancellor had concluded; but, though he did not interrupt him, he gave sufficient proof of the impatience with which he attended.

When

When he kneeled, his Majesty raised him, and, with great warmth, told him, he had not expected this conduct from him ! to think of leaving him, at a time when he must know his services were so necessary, proved a failure of regard which greatly hurt him.

That he (the Chancellor) had reason to be well assured, that it never could be in any man's power to lessen his Majesty's kindness towards, or confidence in him— if any presumed to attempt it, they would find cause to repent it.

He said, there were many reasons, why he should never have designed, or advised this marriage of his brother's ; yet, since it was done, and all parties now so well reconciled, he would not deny that he was very much pleased with it, and, indeed, augured great advantage from it ;
for

for he knew the Duchess to be a woman of such a fine understanding, and amiable character, that she would obtain a great ascendancy over her husband; and, as he was satisfied of her being still directed by the counsels of her father, he was confident it would produce the happiest consequences.

His Majesty added, that he knew the Duke had some very unprincipled people about him, who had deceived and misled him; that their influence would now be overpowered by one, who would guide him in the path of propriety; therefore, he must repeat, he was rejoiced the marriage had taken place.

His Majesty then concluded, with many gracious expressions, desiring the Chancellor never to listen to such unreasonable suggestions as those he had just uttered,
but

but prosecute his business with his usual zeal and alacrity, depending on the continuance of his kindness and protection.

THE next morning, which was that of the last day the Queen was to stay, the Earl of St. Alban visited the Chancellor, with all those compliments, professions and protestations, which were so easy to him; and which his confidence in his own eloquence, led him to suppose every body believed.

He expressed a wonderful joy, that the Queen would now quit the kingdom with sentiments so favorable towards the Royal Family, and more particularly so toward him, to whose counsel she attributed the
prosperous

prosperous state of his Majesty and the nation. His Lordship added, he had authority from the Queen to say, it was her sincere desire to part with the Chancellor on the most amicable terms, which she herself would assure him of when they met.

To this the Chancellor made a concise reply, signifying his sense of her Majesty's goodness, and readiness to attend her at any hour she would please to appoint.

The Earl returned in the afternoon, and conducted the Chancellor to Whitehall, where they found her Majesty, surrounded by ladies, who came to take leave.

On his entrance they withdrew to the anti-chamber, and the Queen rising from her chair, advanced with a countenance expressive of the utmost chearfulness and serenity to him, and soon after took occasion

sion to say, he could not wonder, much less take it ill, that she had been greatly offended with the Duke, and expressed her disapprobation of his marriage so strongly, that, if in consequence of a resentment so natural as her's, she had said any thing displeasing to him, he must impute it to the provocation she had received, though not from him.

She was now informed by the King, and had the fullest proof, that he was perfectly ignorant of the marriage till it had taken place, and, indeed, as much incensed at the step as herself; she, therefore, acquitted him of any part of the offence.

She added, she must acknowledge that his fidelity to the late King, her husband, was eminent; that his services and attachment to her son, and their happy effects, were equally conspicuous; therefore, as she

she received his daughter as her daughter; as she sincerely forgave the Duke and her, and was resolved ever more to evince all the tenderness of a mother towards them; so she wished also to be on amicable terms with him, and should thenceforth expect from him all the good offices her kindness should entitle her to.

The Chancellor, in reply, expressed his strong sense of her Majesty's condescension and goodness; and said, it would have been to derogate from that wisdom, for which she was celebrated, and the dignity she ought to preserve for marking her indignation less strongly; that her generosity and goodness, in so soon pardoning an offence, in itself so unpardonable, could not be too highly commended; and concluded with the professions of duty he thought due to her, saying, he should always depend on her protection as his most
gracious

gracious mistress, and pay all obedience to her commands.

Her Majesty appeared extremely pleased with this discourse; and said she had the utmost reliance on his professions.

The evening drawing on, and many of the Nobility waiting to pay their respects to the Queen, the Chancellor thought it time to retire; therefore, after some repetitions of his professions of duty, and kissing her Majesty's hand, he took leave.

PREVIOUS to this visit of his Lordship, the Duke of York had presented the Duchess to his mother. I did not mention this in the due order of events, because I would

would not interrupt my account of the Chancellor.

The Queen received her so graciously, that a spectator, who had been ignorant of the preceding circumstances, would have supposed she was the daughter of her choice. She made her sit down by her, addressing her with the utmost ease and cordiality; and when she took her leave, embraced her as affectionately as she did her son.

I need not describe the joyful effect of this on the Duke and Duchess.

Her Royal Highness was now presented in form at court, and received with a distinction, that made it evident the King wished she should have every attention and honor paid her, that were due to high rank, adorned by the greatest virtues.

His

His desire was of course universally complied with, and the lovely Duchess received the adoration of all who approached her.

You will easily conceive, my dear Lady Mordaunt, that there were some among those who "bent the knee to her," whose hearts did not dictate the expression of their devotion; but all, who were capable of attachment to real merit, paid the unfeigned tribute of affection, esteem, and respect; of this, I am sure, that no-human being ever resided in a Court, who was more sincerely beloved, who had fewer enemies, and more friends than the Duchess of York.

AND

AND now, my dear Lady Mordaunt, I have brought the history of this admirable woman to a conclusion.

She is placed in a situation that amply repays her for all her past sufferings ; having attained the highest point of human felicity ; reconciled to the tenderest, best, and most beloved of parents ; united to a man, who, conscious of her superlative excellence, regards her as the first of human beings ; to a husband, the object of her choice, and deserving the distinction.

To these sources of domestic felicity, are added, all the advantages of the most splendid situation ; the homage of the world, and, what, to such a heart as the Duchess's, must give the highest degree of happiness

happiness attainable on earth—the power of doing universal good.

I need not particularize, I am sure, to you, the nature of her conduct towards those who attached themselves to her in the hour of adversity; in reading her character, the idea of what her superior understanding and goodness would suggest, will so naturally occur, to a congenial mind, as to render the detail superfluous.

I THINK you will agree with me, my dear Lady Mordaunt, that the hand of Providence was never more manifest, than in the events that I have recounted.

The reluctance of the Chancellor, to his daughter's being promoted to attendance on the Princess Royal; her Highness's, and the King's persevering condescension, in removing all obstacles that obstructed their intended favor, were circumstances very uncommon.

The efforts of enmity, in those who hated the Chancellor, reverting on themselves, and increasing the glory and prosperity of him they sought to ruin; the sufferings of Ann, in consequence of her deviation from duty; the remorse of the Princess Royal, and Sir Charles Berkeley, which cleared her innocence from the imputation thrown on it; these striking events, crowned by the conclusion, of the Duchess receiving the reward of her long-tried virtues and piety, mark the interposition of that Being, who governeth all things in heaven and on earth.

If

If we judge not too hastily, my dear Lady Mordaunt, but wait the close of every event, we shall observe a moral justice prevail in almost every transaction.

And, even in those circumstances where it is not apparent, could we investigate facts, we should find, I doubt not, that virtue and vice were attended universally with their reward and punishment.

The vicious may prosper, may seem happy, but never did a guilty mind experience true felicity; while the virtuous, though appearing to sink beneath the pressure of calamity, enjoy that sweet sensation of conscious rectitude, which takes the bitterness from sorrow's cup, and makes a cordial of it.

I cannot but hope, my dear friend, that all, who are led to reflect on the events that have attended the Duchess of York, will

will derive advantage from the observations, which naturally arise on the occasion; that they will be influenced by it to believe this important truth, that the path of rectitude is the road to genuine felicity.

Adieu, my dear friend, believe me ever affectionately

Your's,

A. ORMOND.

F I N I S.



